

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. has any plan to step in the field of power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the units of the Coal India Ltd. which have been included in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited plans to enter into the field of power generation through joint venture as in the following cases.

- (i) for a 1000 MW power project with Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and Northern Coalfields Limited.
- (ii) for a 1000 MW power project with Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Nigam Limited (UPRVNL) and Northern Coalfields Limited.
- (iii) for a power plant with Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Orissa.

Northern Coalfields Limited and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, both subsidiaries of Coal India Limited are included in the scheme.

Permission for selling imported coal

†269. **DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:**
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite availability of 253 billion tonnes of coal reserves in the country, a proposal of Coal India Limited to grant permission for selling imported coal to meet demand in the domestic market is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Coal India Limited enjoys monopoly in coal mining in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for granting permission to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

meet requirement of coal through import instead of fulfilling responsibility to enhance indigenous production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Since coal is under Open General Licence (OGL), consumers and Coal India Limited (CIL) are free to import coal based on their requirement. Import of coal is done due to limited indigenous availability of coking and low ash non-coking coal and on account of environmental requirements and consideration of location specific landed cost.

(c) and (d) During the year 2005-06, out of the total indigenous production of 407.039 million tones of coal, contribution of various producers was: Coal India Limited-343,389 million tonnes, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCK)-36.138 million tonnes, others including PSUs and captive consumers: 27.512 million tonnes. Various measures are being taken to increase indigenous production of coal which include taking up an Emergency Coal Production Plan, allocation of coal blocks to public and private sector companies as per the extant policy, increasing productivity of work force and machines etc.

Coal mine accidents

270. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) The number of coal mine accidents that took place during the last five year, year-wise;
- (b) The number of casualties thereof;
- (c) The number of cases in which enquiries were ordered; and
- (d) The outcomes of such enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The number of coal mine accidents that took place during the last five years and the number of casualties is given as under: